

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 57

NEWSWEEK
3 JANUARY 1977

All Hands on Board Ship

The guessing games over Jimmy Carter's Cabinet finally ended last week, but not the controversy over some of those he picked. While breaking new ground, as promised, in the number of blacks and women named (two each, counting HUD Secretary-designate Patricia Roberts Harris in both categories), Carter managed to make some people wonder if he had followed his own favorite motto—"Why not the best?"—or whether he had merely balanced a cluster of comfortable Georgia associates with safe veterans of the very Washington Establishment that he had campaigned so ardently against. Most controversial of all was his appointment as Attorney General of Atlanta lawyer and former judge Griffin Bell, whose past record on racial matters was hardly the beacon that Carter's black and liberal supporters had expected (NEWSWEEK, Dec. 27)—and who, it turned out, belonged to three all-white social clubs from which he agreed to resign only reluctantly.

Most of Carter's final selections came off as expected. He picked former Air Force Secretary Harold Brown as Secretary of Defense; Minnesota Rep. Bob Bergland, a lifelong farmer, as Secretary of Agriculture; Duke University vice president Juanita Morris Kreps as Secretary of Commerce, and attorney-about-Washington Joseph Califano, a veteran of the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, as Secretary of HEW. Carter also signed up James Schlesinger, fired by Gerald Ford as Defense Secretary fourteen months ago, as a special White House adviser on energy (and, most likely, future head of Carter's planned Department of Energy). But Carter also surprised most observers by naming Texas economist F. Ray Marshall to be Secretary of Labor instead of AFL-CIO favorite John Dunlop. And he reached back to the Camelot era again to make former Kennedy counselor Theodore Sorensen his nominee for director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Opposition: Carter ran into heavy flak from some blacks and women over his professed difficulty in finding qualified Cabinet candidates in both of those groups. But his more serious problem was the smoldering opposition to Griffin Bell. Carter insisted sturdily that Bell would make a "great" Attorney General and Bell pledged to make his department a "hallowed place" providing "equal justice under law."

Bell's generally maladroit handling of the press, however, did

liberal critics. He denied, then admitted awareness of an early segregationist speech by schoolmate G. Harrold Carswell when he supported Carswell's nomination to the Supreme Court in 1970. If all candidates for Federal office were judged by their racial stands of 30 years ago, Bell told a reporter, "everybody in the South would be barred from office." But he also acknowledged he was a member of two Atlanta social clubs that have no black or Jewish members—the Piedmont Driving Club and the Capital City Club—and the all-white Ogle-



Bell with Carter: Containing the controversy

thorpe Club in Savannah. And he was not eager to resign after having paid \$10,000 in initiation fees. After all, he said, "I won't be in Washington forever."

After a day's deliberation, and some prompting by the President-elect, Bell said he would resign, but many Carter supporters remained upset. While Congressional Black Caucus leader Parren Mitchell of Maryland threatened "all-out war" on the nomination, Bell's club resignations—and support from liberals such as U.N. Ambassador-designate Andrew Young—would likely clear the way for his confirmation.

There were other problems as well. The Washington intelligence community wondered whether speechwriter Sorensen had the experience or toughness to run the CIA or to bring about intelligence reforms of the sort that Carter has promised. "They'll eat him alive at

ligence expert said. "Even George Bush [the current CIA chief] was kept in the dark about a lot of things." AFL-CIO boss George Meany was angry, too, about Carter's rejection of John Dunlop for the Labor post after blacks and women's groups raised objections (and Meany was not about to throw AFL-CIO resources into any opposition by blacks and others to the Bell nomination). The women's groups were happy to see Dunlop rejected and Kreps and Harris selected, but they remained critical of Carter for not consulting with them as he had with business, blacks, environmentalists and others.

Problems: Carter took time out from his transition chores last week to attend the funeral of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley (page 59) and to visit the hospital in Americus, Ga., where his mother, Miss Lillian, was being treated for arthritis. But he was clearly eager to get on with the business of governing. He summoned all of his recent appointees to St. Simons Island this week to hammer out "a common understanding of the nation's problems and possible solutions." One immediate problem, NEWSWEEK learned, was that OMB director-designate Bert Lance had been kept away from the final budget review sessions and data controlled by current OMB boss James Lynn, thus delaying preparation of Carter's alternate budget proposals. "Lynn doesn't seem to know who won the election yet," said one OMB staffer.

For all the criticism of his Cabinet choices, Carter had done what most Presidents do—settled on the people whom he felt comfortable with, who satisfied the party's major political constituencies, and who had the managerial or political experience required of Cabinet officers. In the end, the most important "fresh face" in the crowd was still that of Jimmy Carter himself.

—DAVID M. ALPERN with ELAINE SHANNON in Plains, Ga., JAMES DOYLE in Washington and bureau reports